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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/490,448	01/24/2000	Atsushi Nakamura	862.C1795	7161
5514	7590	03/04/2004	EXAMINER	
FITZPATRICK CELLA HARPER & SCINTO 30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA NEW YORK, NY 10112			HUYNH, KIM T	
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		2112		8
DATE MAILED: 03/04/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PRG

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/490,448	NAKAMURA ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit	
Kim T. Huynh	2112	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

**A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM
 THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.**

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 December 2003.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-11, 18, 19, 21, 22 and 42-47 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-11, 18-19, 21-22, 42-47 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 24 January 2000 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 15.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. The indicated allowability of claims 1-22 is withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference(s) to Tokkahei (Japan 9-282263). Rejections based on the newly cited reference(s) follow.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-11, 18-19, 21-22, 42-47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tokkahei (Japan Patent 9-282263)

As per claim 1, Tokkahei discloses an information processing apparatus comprising:

- Communication control means for receiving a read command from an external device, the read command specifying a memory address where data to be read out are stored; and [0010]
- Memory means for storing information about a device mountable on said information processing apparatus in a memory area, from which the external device can read out data by using the read command, [0014]
- Wherein the device mountable on said information processing apparatus includes an attachable part through which that device is attached to said

information processing apparatus, and a function assist part for assisting a function of said information processing apparatus.[0015], [0009]

As per claim 2, Tokkahei discloses the apparatus further comprising transmission means for transmitting information in the memory area in accordance with the read command from the external device.[0010]

As per claim 3, Tokkahei discloses wherein said communication control means comprises a communication control bus complying with an IEEE-1394 standard. [0018]

As per claim 4, Tokkahei discloses wherein the memory area is set in a configuration ROM defined by the IEEE-1394 standard. [0018-0019]

As per claim 5, Tokkahei discloses wherein position information unique to an electronic device is written in a node dependent information directory of the configuration ROM.[0019]

As per claim 6, Tokkahei discloses wherein the memory area is specified based upon information held in an Instance Directory of the configuration ROM. ([0012], wherein table id implies directory)

As per claim 7, Tokkahei discloses wherein said memory means stores, in the memory area, information indicative of a device that is mountable on said information processing apparatus but is not mounted on said information processing apparatus and a device that is mountable on said information processing apparatus and has already been mounted on said information

processing apparatus. ([0021-0025], wherein device communicate/not communicate implies mountable/not mountable)

As per claims 8, 19, Tokkahei discloses an information processing apparatus comprising:

- Communication control means for sending a read command to an external device, the read command specifying a memory address where data to be read out are stored;[0010]
- Acquisition means for acquiring information about a device that is mountable on the external device from a memory area of the external device, by using the read command; and [0014]
- Display control means for controlling a display based upon the information acquired by said acquisition means,[0009-0011]
- Wherein the device that is mountable on the external device includes an attachable part through which that device is attached to the external device, and a function assisting a function of the external device. [0009]

As per claim 9, Tokkahei discloses wherein said communication control means comprises a communication control bus complying with an IEEE-1394 standard.[0018]

As per claim 10, Tokkahei discloses wherein said acquisition means accesses an Instance Directory stored in a configuration ROM defined by the IEEE-1394 standard to acquire information about the device that is mountable on the external device. [0007-0008]

As per claim 11, Tokkahei discloses wherein said acquisition means acquires information indicative of a device that is mountable on the external device but is not mounted on the external device and a device that is mountable on the external device and has already been mounted on the external device, and said display control means identifiably displays the device that is mountable on the external device but is not mounted on the external device and the device that is mountable on the external device and has already been mounted on the external device based on the information acquired by said acquisition means. [0009-0011], [0014-0015]

As per claims 18, 21-22, Tokkahei discloses a method of controlling an information processing apparatus, comprising:

- A storage step, of storing information about a device mountable on the information processing apparatus in a memory area that is accessible by an external device by using a read command that specifies a memory address where data to be read out is stored;[0014]
- A communication control step, of receiving a read command from the external device; and [0010]
- A transmission step, of transmitting the information about the device mountable on the information processing apparatus, held in the memory area, in accordance with the read command from the external device, [0010]

- Wherein the device mountable on the information processing apparatus includes an attachable part through which the device attached to the information processing apparatus, and a function assist part for assisting a function of the information processing apparatus. [0009], [0015]

As per claim 42, Tokkahei discloses an information processing apparatus comprising:

- A memory configured to store information about a device that is mountable on said information processing apparatus but is not mounted on said information processing apparatus; and [0014]
- A communication unit configured to send the stored information to an external device.[0010]

As per claim 43, Tokkahei discloses wherein the device mountable on said information processing apparatus includes an attachable part through which the device is attached to said information processing apparatus, and a function assist part for assisting a function of said information processing apparatus. [0009], [0015]

As per claim 44, Tokkahei wherein the memory stores information about a device which is mountable on said information processing apparatus and has already been mounted on said information processing apparatus. [0009-0011], [0014-0015]

As per claim 45, Tokkahei discloses a method of controlling an information processing apparatus for communicating with an external device, said method comprising:

- An acquisition step, of acquiring, from the external device, information about a device that is mountable on the external device but is not mounted on the external device; and [0009-0011], [0014-0015]
- A display control step, of controlling a display based upon the information acquired in said acquisition step.[0009-0011]

As per claim 46, Tokkahei discloses wherein the device mountable on the external device includes an attachable part through which the device is attached to the external device, and a function assist part for assisting a function of the external device. [0009], [0015]

As per claim 47, Tokkahei discloses wherein said acquisition step includes acquiring information indicative of the device that is mountable on the external device but is not mounted on the external device and a device that is mountable on the external device and has already been mounted on the external device, and said display control step includes identifiably displaying the device that is mountable on the external device but is not mounted on the external device and the device that is mountable on the external device and has already been mounted on the external device based on the information acquired in said acquisition step. [0009-0011], [0014-0015]

Response to Amendment

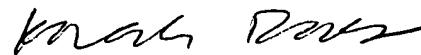
3. Applicant's amendment filed on 12/23/03 have been fully considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

4. *Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kim Huynh whose telephone number is (703)305-5384 or via e-mail addressed to [kim.huynh3@uspto.gov]. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30AM- 6:30PM.*

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Rinehart can be reached on (703) 305-4815 or via e-mail addressed to [mark.rinehart@uspto.gov]. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)872-9306 for regular communications and After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)306-5631.



Kim Huynh

Feb. 29, 2004

Khanh Dang
Primary Examiner